

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical element including a substrate which is generally transparent to infrared radiation in a wavelength range of 5-16 μm , a pigment disposed in the substrate in an amount that does not generally decrease transmission of the infrared radiation, the pigment
5 being generally non-transmissive to at least one of visible and ultraviolet light, the pigment being reactable with the substrate over time to create a reaction product which can decrease transmission of the infrared radiation, and a protective agent disposed in the substrate in an amount that does not generally decrease transmission of the infrared radiation and which generally prevents creation of the reaction product which can decrease transmission of the
10 infrared radiation. The optical element may be a lens for a passive infrared detector assembly, for example.

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